

What are Antonyms?

Worksheet

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings; three types exist: complementary (on/off, no middle ground), gradable (hot/cold, spectrum between), and relational (teacher/student, opposite roles).

Questions

1. Which is a true antonym pair?
A) cat/kitten
B) happy/sad
C) walk/ran
D) book/read
2. 'Big' and 'small' are examples of?
A) synonyms
B) homophones
C) gradable antonyms
D) proper nouns
3. Complementary antonyms have...
A) middle ground
B) multiple shades
C) no middle ground
D) same root word
4. 'Lend' and 'borrow' are...
A) synonyms
B) relational antonyms
C) gradable antonyms
D) not related
5. Explain why 'hot' and 'cold' are gradable antonyms.
6. Why are 'pass' and 'fail' complementary antonyms?
7. Give a relational antonym pair and explain the relationship.
8. Define: What is an antonym?
9. Define: Example of antonyms?
10. Define: What are gradable antonyms?

Answer Key

1. B) happy/sad — Happy and sad are opposite emotions. Cat/kitten, walk/ran, and book/read are not antonymous.
2. C) gradable antonyms — 'Big' and 'small' are gradable antonyms — there's a spectrum between them (medium, large, tiny).
3. C) no middle ground — Complementary antonyms like on/off or pass/fail have no spectrum between them.
4. B) relational antonyms — 'Lend' and 'borrow' are relational antonyms — they define opposite roles in the same transaction.
5. 'Hot' and 'cold' have a spectrum of temperatures between them 'Warm' exists between hot and cold 'Cool' and 'lukewarm' are also intermediate states
6. There is no middle ground between passing and failing You either pass an exam or you don't No spectrum exists between the two states
7. Example: 'teacher' and 'student' 'Teacher' implies a student exists (and vice versa) They're opposites because they define each other's roles
8. A word with opposite or nearly opposite meaning.
9. Hot/cold, big/small, happy/sad, rich/poor.
10. Antonym pairs with a spectrum between them — hot, warm, cool, cold.

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